



Oakworth Methodist Church



Part of Worth Valley Church.
Airedale Methodist Circuit

December 2023 Newsletter

May the Star of Bethlehem
shine in your path



Pastoral Letter

Dear friends,

Since moving to Yorkshire in the summer, time has simply flown by. We barely seem to have finished unpacking ... and already it is Advent.

Advent is a time of expectation, a time of waiting, a time to reflect, and a time of hope.

I love seeing the gentle Christmas lights going on, illuminating the darkness.

Yet this year, I find myself watching the news with such sadness: The current conflicts, the refugees, desperate for a life better than the dangerous one they left behind. Even here at home, families wonder how they will pay the fuel bills, never mind getting presents.

So, this year in our house, it will be an Advent of prayerfulness and action. Taking action where that is possible, like giving food to food banks and prayerfulness for the things that we need to hand over to God.

Whilst being mindful to leave space to reflect and prepare for our first Christmas in Yorkshire and to celebrate the birth of Jesus, the Light of the world.

Love and blessings

Tracy x



Jesus

Light of the World



Minister: Rev Tracy Birks

☎ 01535 670663

e-mail: tracy.birks@airedalemethodists.org

News

ECO Church Bronze Award

Our ECO Church Bronze Award finally came through last month and the Certificate is displayed in the Church Foyer. Silver Award next !!



Social/Fundraising Events

Another two Film Evenings have been enjoyed this season: £175 was raised at 'The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry' in October and last month 'Save the Cinema' raised £105.

The Autumn Fayre was well supported and raised the grand total of £1,030 on the day - £430 on the Craft Stall (with more to come from sales of remaining items at local hairdressers up to Christmas!) and £600 on the rest of the stalls. A huge thank you to all who supported the event in any way.

The church stall at the Village Christmas Fair also did well, raising a further £50.



Property issues

A £686 grant has been received from the Pebbles Fund of the Rank Foundation towards the cost of the new dishwasher last summer.

This has released other funds to enable the replacement of our commercial oven which stopped working last month. The new refurbished oven arrived just in time to cook Lunch Club Christmas Lunch!

28 light blue church chairs have been received from the now closed Cowling Methodist Church. These will go in the lounge once the AV desk returns to its former home at the back of church.



In memoriam

We commend Terry Porter into God's hands, assuring Jenifer, family and friends of our continuing prayers and sympathy. Terry's Funeral Service will be at church on Wednesday 10th January at 12.00 noon.



Santa (Beetle) Drive with Food - at Church

Wednesday 20th December from 5.00 pm

Please support Ronald in Uganda this Christmas



Mission Possible Film Evenings

Barbie (2023) (12)

Friday 26th January 6.30 pm

with Fish & Chips in the Interval

on the giant screen

at Oakworth Methodist Church

All welcome - just turn up on the day

Donations to cover cost of food and film

To live in Barbie Land is to be a perfect being in a perfect place.
Unless you have a full-on existential crisis. Or you're a Ken.

Pantomime News



Rehearsals for Cinderella are now in full swing. Sadly, Anne (choreographer) has been ill for several weeks but Emma (Sutton choreographer) has agreed to cover for her (Thanks Emma!) and the cast are now working hard on song/dance routines and dialogue and everything is starting to come together.

Work has started on designing scenery and lighting, preparing special effects and sorting out all those wonderful costumes. If anyone else would like to volunteer to help with scenery painting, please have a word with David, Maureen or Jane. Thanks.

Advance bookings are already being taken from cast and crew families and large groups. Tickets go on general sale on Bank Holiday Monday 1st January. Booking details are on the back page and the church Website. Book early to avoid disappointment! Tell all your friends - and enjoy the Show!



The Meaning of Christmas

Far away in Bethlehem, a baby boy was born,
Born with neither riches, nor with fame,
Yet wise men came from all around to bring Him their gifts,
And peace was felt by all who heard His name.

Angels watched him as he slept, and gently rocked His bed,
Their voices singing softly in His ear;
His mother and his father both gave thanks to God above
For the greatest gift of all, their Son, so dear.

They knew His life upon this earth would not be filled with wealth,
They also knew He would encounter strife;
But most of all, they knew that He would be a loving Child,
And teach the love of God throughout His life.

At Christmas we celebrate this birth of Jesus Christ,
Let's keep in mind the truth of Christmas Day;
For it's not the Christmas wrappings, nor the gifts that lie within,
But our gift of love to others in every way ...

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Find all
the blue
words
from the
passage
above in
the grid
opposite
and then
read the
message
in the
unused
letters!



Sunday Worship

***A warm welcome awaits
as we worship together***



- Dec** 3 10.30 am Christ Partington
10 10.30 am Darrell Cummins - Local Arrangement
17 10.30 am Rev Tracy Birks -
Oakworth Carol Service - All Age Worship
24 10.30 am **Worth Valley Church Carol Service -**
at Oxenhope - led by Rev Tracy Birks
9.00 pm Worth Valley Church Christmas Eve Service
(finishes at midnight Bethlehem time) - at Oakworth
Includes Holy Communion - led by Rev Tracy Birks
31 10.30 am **Worth Valley Church Service - at Lees**
- led by Maurice Baren
- Jan** 7 10.30 am David Clark
14 10.30 am Christ Partington + Rev Tracy Birks -
All Age Worship
21 10.30 am Rev Roger Fox
28 10.30 am **Worth Valley Church Covenant Service - at Lees**
Includes Holy Communion - led by Rev Tracy Birks
- Feb** 4 10.30 am Janet Clark
11 10.30 am Rev Tracy Birks - Taize Service - at Marsh
or Rev Nel Shallow - Reflective Art Service - at Bingley
or Rev Clare Stainsby - Biblical Conversations - at Cross Hills
18 10.30 am Rev Susan Greenhart
25 10.30 am **Worth Valley Church Service - at Oakworth**
Includes Holy Communion - led by Rev Tracy Birks

Oakworth Services will be live-streamed on our Circuit YouTube channel:
<https://www.youtube.com/@airedalemethodists/streams>
and they can also be viewed later if you wish.



Editor: David J Howarth ☎ 01535 215784
e-mail: DHowarth@OakworthMethodists.org

Diary Dates



Tuesdays 12.15 pm Oakworth Methodist Lunch Club
*closed 12th-26th December & 2nd January (Christmas),
 6th+13th February (Pantomime), 26th March & 2nd April (Easter)*

DECEMBER 2023

Sat	2	2.30 pm	Village Christmas Fair - Oakworth Village Hall
Mon	4	1.30 pm	Welcome Drop-in Christmas Party - in Church
Tue	5	12.00 pm	Lunch Club Christmas Lunch - Carols from 11.30 am
Mon	11	1.00 pm	Oakworth Craft Club - Church Lounge
Thu	14	3.30 pm	Messy Church - Church Hall
Fri	15	10.00 am	Friendship Group - Church Lounge
Wed	20	5.00 pm	Wednesday Club Santa Drive for Ronald in Uganda

JANUARY 2024

Mon	8	1.30 pm	Welcome Drop-in - in Church
Thu	11	3.30 pm	Messy Church - Church Hall
Mon	15	1.00 pm	Oakworth Craft Club - Church Lounge
Wed	17	7.00 pm	Wednesday Club - ???
Fri	19	10.00 am	Friendship Group - Church Lounge
Fri	26	6.30 pm	Mission Possible Film Evening + Fish & Chip Supper

FEBRUARY 2024

Mon	5	1.30 pm	Welcome Drop-in - in Church
Thu	8	3.30 pm	Messy Church - Church Hall
Sat	10 to Sat 17		37th Pantomime - Cinderella - on stage in Church
Mon	19	1.00 pm	Oakworth Craft Club - Church Lounge
Tue	20	7.00 pm	Worth Valley Church Council - Oxennope
Fri	23	10.00 am	Friendship Group - Church Lounge
Tue	27	7.00 pm	Airedale Circuit Meeting - Silsden

MARCH 2024

Fri/Sat	1/2	7.15 pm	KYDZ Youth Theatre Spring Show - on stage in Church
Mon	4	1.30 pm	Welcome Drop-in - in Church
Sat	9	All day	Catering for Haworth Hobble - at Haworth
Thu	14	3.30 pm	Messy Church - Church Hall
Sat	16	10.00 am	Spring Market - in Church + Hall
Tue	19	7.00 pm	Church Life Meeting - Church Lounge
Wed	20	7.00 pm	Wednesday Club: 'Totally Brassed Off' - Chris Partington
Fri	22	6.30 pm	Mission Possible Film Evening + Fish & Chip Supper

Check our website for further information:
www.OakworthMethodists.org



Find us on
Facebook



37th Oakworth Methodist Pantomime

CINDERELLA

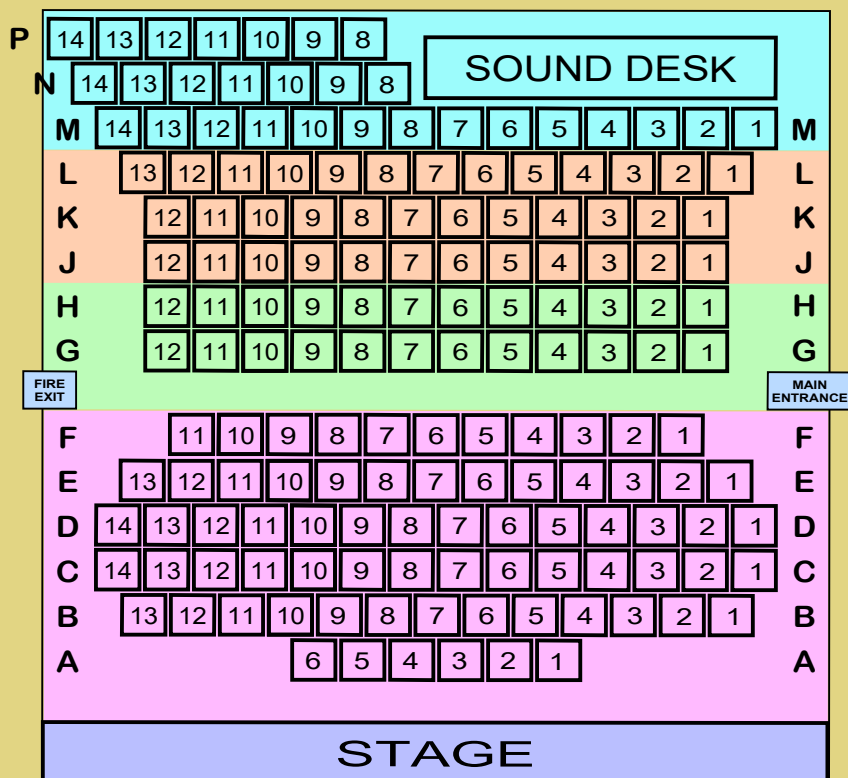
THE
FAIRY GODMOTHER
OF ALL PANTOMIMES

Evening Shows
at 7pm:

Saturday 10th,
Monday 12th,
Tuesday 13th,
Wednesday 14th,
Friday 16th &
Saturday 17th
February 2024

2pm Matinees
on both Saturdays

Seating Plan



Adults £9.00, Seniors £8.00
Children £6.00

Book online at www.OakworthMethodists.org
or ring Peter Howarth ☎07968 618312